

Since the last edition of *the key*, the Musicians Benevolent Fund has received donations in memory of the people listed below. We offer our condolences to all their loved ones and thank them for their donations

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| Student Friend | Free (for 10 years to students on music-related courses at UK/Eire institutes of higher education) |
| Musician Friend | £10 annually (for professional musicians) |
| Friend | £20 annually |
| Joint Friend | £35 annually (for two people at the same address) |
| Life Friend | £600 (single payment) |

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Spring 2007

The news letter of the Musicians Benevolent Fund

Ring in the new:
Animateurs in the Docklands
Monday Platform 2007 and
the latest MBF String Awards

Plus news and events

MUSICIANS BENEVOLENT FUND



2007 looks like being a year of exciting change and development. As previously mentioned in *the key*, we have launched a major research project into the needs and expectations of musicians and people in the music industry.

The first results will be published in the summer and this will, we hope, indicate how the Musicians Benevolent Fund can expand and make the most of its work over the next decade. We already play a key role in supporting musicians and have a deservedly high reputation in the music world.

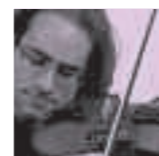
We do our best to support student, working and retired musicians in need. We are also now starting to look at work to keep musicians healthy, with partners such as the British Association for Performing Arts Medicine and the Association of British Orchestras. But there are ways we could do even more – and we hope the research will help to show us how.

A questionnaire has gone out to 73,000 people to ask musicians for their thoughts: the hub, an arts development consultancy, is collating the results and organising focus groups in the spring. The final results will be presented to the staff and Trustees in early summer and we will consider how we can respond to the issues raised. We will also establish an advisory group to help us communicate the messages to other organisations supporting musicians.

Key to our plans for the future are the MBF's Trustees and Committee members who help to set the strategy for the MBF. We are fortunate to have recruited some excellent new people who are profiled on pages 20 and 21. They will play a vital role, as will our long-standing trustees who have made such a contribution over the years.

In the meantime, we have been keeping up our traditional activities – such as holidays and Christmas gifts – and supporting musicians in need. Felix Kok, Philip Tarlton and Michael Haigh are featured in this issue. We write about an exciting new initiative too – a major grant we have given to the Spitalfields Festival to train highly skilled young animateurs. See pages 12-14 for more.

Rosanna Preston
Chief Executive, MBF



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Philip Jones CBE

A Westminster City Council Green Plaque commemorating celebrated trumpet player and former MBF Chairman Philip Jones CBE was unveiled by Sir Charles Mackerras last November. The ceremony in St John's Wood was attended by The Lord Mayor of Westminster. The plaque is in honour of his immense contribution to music and was organised by the MBF.

Right: Brass Ensemble from the Royal Academy of Music perform a specially commissioned fanfare by Duncan Ward



everyone needs friends

The MBF is offering ten enterprising Friends the chance to attend a 2007 Prom free of charge. Any existing MBF Friend who finds someone new to join up by 16 April 2007 will be entered into a prize draw for two free tickets to a Prom of their choice*. The draw will take place at the end of April and the ten winners contacted shortly afterwards for details of their preferred Prom. So don't miss your chance to attend a Prom for free – find a new Friend today!

We re-launched the Friends scheme in the last edition of *the key* and numbers are steadily rising. But we are still keen to attract new supporters, particularly students. We offer students free membership for the first ten years and are currently developing a new student area of the MBF website.

What the scheme offers:

- the chance to support musicians in need
- *the key*, published biannually
- details of supporters' events
- discounted tickets to MBF promoted events
- discounted tickets for a wide range of concerts and events (see pages 29-31 for details)
- discounted subscriptions for selected music magazines
- discounted joint tickets to the MBF's annual Festival of Saint Cecilia
- reserved seats at the Festival of Saint Cecilia service.

Why not give someone a year's membership as a gift? If you would like to enrol a new Friend today, please contact Emma Perona-Wright on 020 7636 4481 or email eperona-wright@mbf.org.uk

CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP:

Student Friend	Free (for 10 years to students on music-related courses at UK/Eire institutes of higher education)
Musician Friend	£10 (for professional musicians only)
Friend	£20
Joint Friend	£35 (for two people at the same address)
Life Friend	£600 (single payment)

*This offer does not include Proms where the BBC has exclusive access to all seats. Please note individuals can only be entered into the draw once, regardless of the number of new Friends found. Offer ends 16 April 2007 and applies to the standard Friends subscription of £20 only. Tickets will be subject to availability.

Find a Friend for the MBF • Find a Friend for the MBF • Find a Friend for the MBF

Music in the heart of London

Violinist Felix Kok, leader of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra for 23 years, played under Henry Wood, Charles Groves and John Barbirolli in the course of his long career. He now lives in the Charterhouse, a stone's throw from the Barbican



Photo by Felix Bach www.felixbach.com

Recital by Jonathan Powell

in the Great Hall at the Charterhouse
22 March at 7.30pm

Tickets are free but to reserve a place
please call 020 7253 9503.

Donations are suggested for the Charterhouse.

Music at the Charterhouse

Hospital following the amputation of his leg and reconstruction of his foot, and in the long term his gait and balance have been affected.

After his wife died in 1998, he moved to Charterhouse where his flat is full of memories from the past – photographs, paintings and concert programmes, and including a menu from a Christmas Day banquet in 1944 in Brussels where he played with Barbirolli and the Hallé orchestra just after the Germans had started the Ardennes offensive.

The MBF helps with some costs, particularly with running the car. Felix has been to stay for week-long breaks at Ivor Newton House, the MBF's residential home in Bromley, which he enjoyed enormously particularly as he recalls playing with Ivor Newton.

He has been unable to play the violin since breaking his shoulder in a fall three years ago. However, he still coaches at Grittleton and now sings in a choir. Ursula has introduced him to the St Michael's Singers, led by ex-vicar choral of Westminster Cathedral Trevor Ling, who rehearse at Charterhouse and specialise in plainsong and polyphonic Renaissance music.

Felix has sung bass for the past two years and will perform with them at an Easter service. He is also helping to organise a recital by Jonathan Powell in the Great Hall at Charterhouse, on a piano that once belonged to his late wife, Ann Steel, and has now been restored.

"Music is hugely important to me. Ursula saved my life by asking me to take part in these musical events. A flag flies here, too, for the MBF." ■

At 82, Felix Kok still leads a life that revolves around music and music-making. Last July, he set off from the Barbican for the Loire Valley in the aging Volvo given to him by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra after an accident 14 years ago in which he lost a leg.

He was accompanied by a cellist friend, Ursula Williams, and stopped off in Normandy to pick up another companion. The three went on to spend a few days with Louis Frémaux, conductor of the CBSO from 1969 to 1978. Felix was leader of the orchestra for 23 years.

The trip, according to Ursula, was a great success. Ursula is one of "many hundreds" of friends she says Felix has encountered over the years at the annual Grittleton Chamber Music Course in Wiltshire with which he has been involved since the early 1960s, first playing then coaching.

Since his accident in Portugal in 1992, the much used Volvo has been a lifeline. It allows him to travel to Grittleton and elsewhere from his flat at the Charterhouse. The Charterhouse, on the site of a former Carthusian monastery, is home to an all-male community of clergy, ex-military men, authors, publishers and schoolmasters.

Felix's flat overlooks the courtyard gardens and beyond are the buildings – part ecclesiastical, part Tudor mansion and Jacobean almshouse. It is just before Christmas, and every available surface is covered with Christmas cards.

Felix was an orchestral violinist from 1942 until 1988 when he retired as leader of the CBSO, and has lived here for the past seven years.

He first came to London with his mother and three brothers from South Africa in 1938, just before the outbreak of the Second World War, after his violin teacher in Johannesburg suggested that he should study in the UK at the Royal Academy with the legendary Rowsby Woof, teacher of the era's leading musicians.

After early days in a boarding house in Bayswater, Felix won a scholarship and, still in his teens, started to play with top orchestras. By 1942, he was playing with the Boyd Neel Orchestra and travelled to Berlin, Hamburg and the Ruhr in 1946. He says it was "'memorable' in inverted commas, for the ghastliness of it all... the smell of the bombings, the decay..." They played to troops in Germany; in Italy, to civilian audiences at La Scala.

In the postwar years, he started to earn a living as a musician, playing in the Blech Quartet whose leader,

Harry Blech, founded the London Mozart Players. He was invited to broadcast with Nadia Boulanger and Oda Slobodskaya on the newly inaugurated Third Programme. He continued to travel with the Boyd Neel Orchestra, played with the London Philharmonic and then, in 1959, joined the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra under Sir Charles Groves.

In 1955, he married the concert pianist Ann Steel and performed extensively with her. In the early 1960s he started to teach at the Royal College of Music and continued to do so after he moved to Birmingham and the CBSO in 1965. He was leader of the orchestra for two decades, first under Hugo Rignold, then Louis Frémaux with whom he recorded for EMI, and finally Simon Rattle. He taught for many years at Birmingham Conservatoire.

Awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Birmingham University, he retired in 1988. Initially he travelled, coaching and teaching, but in 1992 suffered the accident which still seriously affects his health. He was working in Oporto, Portugal, helping to set up an orchestra, when he fell under the carriage as he stepped off a train. His left leg was severed, his right foot crushed and his right arm severely damaged. He spent many months in Derby

Philip Tarlton

After nearly 20 years with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philip Tarlton's career as a bassoonist came to an abrupt end after surgery for skin cancer. But he has now taken up a new instrument – the clarinet...

Philip was diagnosed with malignant melanoma on January 5, 2005. He had been married for six years, his son was just 17 months old and another baby was due later in the month. After tests, scans and examinations, a secondary tumour was removed from his neck on March 2. The surgery, which left the muscles in his lower right face paralysed, meant that playing the bassoon was impossible. The embouchure could not be formed.

Music, however, has been central to his life since childhood. He took up the clarinet at the age of seven when, after a bout of pneumonia, the family GP suggested that a wind instrument might be good for his lungs. A colleague of his father's had a clarinet for sale, and he started to play.

His is a musical family. His older brother Antony has played the violin since the age of five: he has been Principal Second Violin for the past 10 years in the orchestra of the Welsh National Opera and was Assistant Leader for 16 years before that. His younger brother Neil started to play the 'cello at nine, then moved to double bass three years later. He has been a member of the Philharmonia Orchestra for 27 years and its Principal Double Bass for the past 15 years.

Philip continued with the clarinet until he was 13, but was then drawn to the sound of the bassoon by the signature tune of *The Alfred Hitchcock Hour* – "The Funeral March of the Marionettes", played on bassoons. His school music teacher found him an instrument and his life long love of the bassoon began.

He won a junior scholarship to the Royal Manchester College of Music and, in 1968, became a full-time student, studying with William Waterhouse. He left college in 1972, freelanced for the major orchestras in the north of England and was a founder member of the Manchester Camerata, with which he played and broadcast the Mozart Bassoon Concerto. He became Principal Bassoonist with the Welsh National Opera in 1974 then moved to London in

1986. He first played with the London Philharmonic Orchestra in 1986 and became a full-time member in 1989.

Soon after he had been told he had cancer, Philip had to come to terms with the predicted loss of his career when he was told that the surgery to his neck would have to be 'necessarily aggressive' and warned of the consequences. However, music was never far from his thoughts.

"When I was walking up and down the corridors of the hospital after the surgery, I couldn't get the first movement of Mozart's Clarinet Quintet out of my head..."

He realised that he might be able to return to music by playing the clarinet, and even after a 42-year break. The embouchure for the clarinet is very different from that of the bassoon and does not rely solely on the facial muscles.

After leaving hospital, he called his friend Bob Hill, Principal Clarinetist of the LPO, who found a pair of clarinets for him. Fourteen months later his brother Antony gave him a huge incentive to return to the concert stage by suggesting that he learned the Mozart Clarinet Concerto and perform it with him and the amateur Cerddorfa Dinas Powys Orchestra. After three lessons with Bob Hill and six months hard work, he had learned it by heart and gave his first performance on December 10, 2006 in Dinas Powys, two years after his last public performance. The concert was a technical and emotional challenge and he was very nervous. The little technique he had on the clarinet at the age of seven was totally inadequate: basically he had to learn the clarinet from scratch. It was a personal milestone and a very emotional evening.

"Discovering that I could play the clarinet, albeit as an amateur, gave me a great deal of hope. I believe that anything in a person's life that gives them a lift or feeling of happiness must be an aid to recovery from any form of illness."



Left: Philip Tarlton giving his first concert performance on the clarinet

Besides practical involvement in music making, Philip was determined to raise funds for the charities that had helped him and his family. Proceeds from the concert and any further performances will be split between the cancer research charity CAN HELP and the MBF.

"The MBF has been absolutely wonderful to us, especially in view of the fact we have two very young children. We've been deeply moved by their care and concern.

"Putting myself on the line as an amateur soloist seemed a possible way of raising money for these two charities. I don't think sitting unheard at the back of an amateur orchestra would have attracted the same interest.

"It is my wish to perform the Mozart Clarinet Concerto as often as possible and raise as much money as possible for these wonderful charities. Without these organisations my life would be very different. One has helped my family in a very difficult financial situation. The other has, literally, saved my life." ■

IVOR NEWTON HOUSE

perfect timing in retirement

Ivor Newton House, the residential home in Bromley, Kent, run by the Musicians Benevolent Fund, is the perfect setting for older musicians or their partners to enjoy a rewarding life in retirement.

Up to 21 residents can socialise or lead a more private life.

Musical events and other activities are organised both inside the home and further afield. Run to an exceptionally high standard, many rooms have en suite facilities and the food, prepared daily by the chef, is excellent.

Short or long-term stays are available.

**MUSICIANS
BENEVOLENT FUND**



For further details and a brochure, please contact the Casework Department Musicians Benevolent Fund
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London W1W 6JA

Telephone: 020 7636 4481
email: casework@mbf.org.uk
website: www.mbf.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 228089

MBF Holidays

Nearly 120 guests of the MBF enjoyed holidays last year in hotels from the south coast to Scarborough and Scotland. Classical guitarist Michael Haigh and his wife Janice from Wakefield visited the Jane Hodge Hotel in the Vale of Glamorgan



Above: Michael Haigh and his wife, Janice

For the Haighs, the chance to relax in completely different surroundings means a huge amount. Michael suffered a severe stroke in 2000 and since then Janice has been his main carer. The Jane Hodge Hotel specialises in offering facilities for disabled people.

"It's a place where having a disability doesn't matter," says Janice. "It's wonderful for the carer... It's the fact that Michael is more relaxed and everyone's in the same situation. The staff are all so used to dealing with people with all kinds of disability that there isn't a problem."

Michael Haigh, now 70, gave up his career as an accountant at the age of 34 to teach and play the classical and jazz guitar. He suffered a first stroke, a subarachnoid haemorrhage, at the age of 47 but was able to resume his teaching career until retirement in 1993. He then played extensively for enjoyment and to supplement his pension – the classical guitar at weddings and jazz for pleasure.

But in 2000, at a jazz gig in a club near Halifax he suffered a second, devastating stroke which he was not expected to survive. It was a bleed in the brain stem, enough to cause significant damage, and operating to

stop the haemorrhage was out of the question.

Despite a very negative prognosis he pulled through, albeit with significant damage. He lost the ability to speak and swallow, the sight in his right eye, hearing in his right ear, and was virtually paralysed on his left side.

He was in hospital more than a year and his wife Janice, 59, had to give up her job as an Export Manager. After he moved back into their home, adapted for him with the help of Care and Repair in Leeds, the MBF provided a scooter, a swivel car seat to help him get in and out of the car and, very importantly, holidays.

Janice, who is still heavily involved in his care and has since become Chair of Care and Repair in Leeds, said the help has been invaluable. When the first invitation came to travel to Wales, to the Jane Hodge Hotel, they were only able to consider the trip because of the car seat.

"It's because I had the special seat in the car that we could consider a long journey. It was the fact that we didn't have to ask 'can we get there?'"

Every year, the MBF offers a group of beneficiaries with degenerative illnesses and their

spouses or carers the chance to have holidays at this hotel, in the heart of the Vale of Glamorgan. It has a leisure centre, swimming pool, jacuzzi, sauna and multi-gym. It has been designed and built for people with disabilities and includes fixed and manual hoists and emergency call points.

Olwen Stocker, who organises the holiday programme, says guests enjoy the companionship and the chance to compare notes. The MBF pays for accommodation, dinner, bed and breakfast.

"They're good company for each other. They're musicians from different backgrounds – classical, rock and jazz... They've got that as a common interest. There's a lot of laughter. They really do let their hair down and enjoy themselves."

The Haighs have been three years running, and Janice reports that she and Michael have made new friends and look forward to the break as a high point of the year.

"The friends that we've built up with the holidays are a whole circle of new friends. We're all in contact on the internet. I find that when I talk to others in the group and find out what the MBF has done for them, it's marvellous." ■

ABO Conference

The first ever Healthy Orchestra Bronze Charters were awarded at the recent Association of British Orchestras' annual conference held from 18-20 January in Manchester. The four organisations to receive the awards were the Royal Opera House, Royal Northern College of Music, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and BBC Symphony Orchestra. Representatives collected their certificates from MBF Chief Executive, Rosanna Preston.

The Healthy Orchestra Charter was launched by the MBF at the ABO's 2006 conference. It is designed to promote health awareness and injury prevention to enable musicians to enjoy long and healthy careers. It encourages orchestras to share good practice in areas such as flexible working hours and noise awareness. The MBF is sponsoring this scheme and the ABO organising it.

"To be awarded the bronze level of the Healthy Orchestra Charter is to the credit of our pro-active Health & Safety reps and occupational health provision. Health & Safety considerations form an integral part of our thinking so it feels great to have our hard work recognised." Hazel Province, Orchestra Director, Royal Opera House

"This award represents a very welcome recognition of our commitment to the welfare of our students, both current and future. We are delighted to find ourselves in the company of such high-flying organisations as the Royal Opera House, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra as a recipient of this award. It represents a significant testament to the professionalism of our operation." Edward Gregson, Principal, Royal Northern College of Music



Above (from left to right): Michael Henson, Managing Director, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra; Paul Hughes, General Manager, BBC Symphony Orchestra; Hazel Province, Orchestra Director, Royal Opera House; Edward Gregson, Principal, Royal Northern College of Music

The MBF Monday Platform 2007

Monday 4 June 2007
7.30pm
Wigmore Hall

Tickets: £8-£15
available from Wigmore Hall Box Office, 020 7935 2141
www.wigmore-hall.org.uk

Our next Monday Platform will feature the 2002 BBC Young Musician of the Year violinist Jennifer Pike and the Badke Quartet one of Britain's finest young string quartets. All performers are recipients of MBF awards.

The programme will include:

Haydn – String Quartet in G Major Op. 76 No.1
Bartok – String Quartet No. 2 in A minor Op. 17
Prokofiev – Violin Sonata No. 2 in D Major Op. 94
Chausson – Poème Op. 25

For further details about this concert and the entire series, please see the enclosed leaflet or call the MBF's Public Affairs office on 020 7299 8357



MBF SONGWRITING AWARDS 2006

Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts produced the winner of the MBF's annual Songwriting Awards for the second year running...

Just what makes a successful song is hard to pinpoint... but R'n'B singer-songwriter Hannah Rockcliffe, 20, had the winning formula at the MBF Songwriting Awards showcase final last November at The Bedford, Balham, London. She and her band were among six applicants on pop and commercial music degree courses at universities and colleges in the UK who were shortlisted for the final.

"What makes a good song? Something that's believable, memorable and singable," said the chairman of the panel, Guy Chambers, best known for his work as songwriter and producer with Robbie Williams on five hugely successful albums. He has also written and produced material for stars such as Tom Jones, Beverley Knight, INXS, Will Young and Tina Turner. He praised the quality of this year's finalists, but said he believed Rockcliffe was 'the clear winner in a genre in which it's very difficult to be good... she had definitely presented the best songs'.

On the panel with him were Cathy Dennis, who wrote Kylie Minogue's 'Can't Get You Out of My Head' and Britney Spears' 'Toxic', David Stark, editor/publisher of SongLink International magazine, Jake Shillingford, formerly of cult orchestral band My Life Story and Tony Moore, Manager of The Bedford and who once played with Iron Maiden and Cutting Crew.

Rockcliffe, whose win follows LIPA graduate Matthew Murphy and The Wombats' victory in 2005, will use the £4,000 prize to equip a home studio in which she can record a professional quality demo when she graduates.

She was thrilled by her success. "I'm shocked, excited, elated, more than happy! To know people who have been in the industry for so long think I deserve to win the award makes me so proud. It will enable me to buy a home studio and R'n'B really needs this production aspect – without that it can't really exist..."



Left: Hannah Rockcliffe, winner of the 2006 award

Below: Matthew Murphy and his band, The Wombats, winners in 2005, released their second single in the autumn



Photos by Gareth Holder



Above: This year's runners up Jub, from Bath Spa University

The awards, initiated by the MBF and held annually, are aimed at encouraging young songwriters and new talent. The top prize certainly opened doors for last year's winners, The Wombats, who were special guest performers on the night. Their second single "Moving to New York" was released earlier in the week.

"It definitely gave us the momentum that got the ball rolling," said lead singer Matthew Murphy.

Runners-up Jub from Bath Spa University won a £2,000 MBF Development Award. Rich Webb, 21, who plays bass and is studying for a BA in commercial music, said the band would use the prize to fund the recording of an album and cover the cost of promoting it.

"We put every bit of energy into putting on a good live performance," he said. "It's a real stepping stone."

The showcase final itself was a valuable performance opportunity,



Above: Prize winners with this year's judges Jake Shillingford (second left), Tony Moore (third left), Guy Chambers (fourth left), Cathy Dennis (fifth left) and David Stark (third right).

said violinist and leader of the London Mozart Players, David Juritz, who sits on the MBF's Education Committee.

"It's so exciting to hear the variation. They all had something to offer. I loved the strength of ideas.

"Events like this concentrate the minds of musicians. Something that gives £4,000 ring-fenced for musical development is a great concept. It will force them to move further forward."

Bedford manager Tony Moore, who once toured with Black Sabbath and The Stranglers and has just recorded a solo album, agreed that the event was important to young musicians.

"We enjoy the music but it's not a nine-to-five job and there's very little security in the industry. Sometimes times can get tough. The MBF can be very important to musicians who put themselves on the frontline without having a PAYE job behind them."

Winners

Hannah Rockcliffe,
Cyrus Bayandor (bass)
James Harrison (guitar)
Thomas Montgomery (drums)
Craig Smith (keyboards)
Kat Clark, Livia Leisk, Tim Mvula (backing vocals)

Runners up

Jub – Bath Spa University
Nick Burns (drums, backing vocals)
Sam Dixon (keyboards, backing vocals)
Luke McDonnell (guitar, vocals)
Richard Webb (bass and backing vocals)

Right: Apprentice animateur
Daisy Gathorne-Hardy in action
at a Docklands primary school

Perfecting performance

The MBF is funding training for a new generation of professional animateurs through an adventurous programme run by London's Spitalfields Festival. Animateurs work with people to bring out the creativity within them and the musical results are often astounding



At a primary school in London's Docklands, children are hopping from foot to foot with excitement. An opera singer is performing in the school hall and they are on tenterhooks, transported into the Underworld as Persephone flees her suitor, Pluto.

They have studied the Greek myth and written their own stories about it. Not only that, they have also created the words and music for an oratorio, "Seeds of Winter", to be performed at Spitalfields Winter Festival.

"It's thrilling for them," says their teacher Gemma Masters. "This is a huge, huge thing. The music and the singer are awe-inspiring. It's fantastic and they really feel that they're working together rather than having something imposed on them."

For the past five weeks, these Year 6 pupils at Harbinger Primary School and others from nearby Arnhem Wharf Primary School have been working hard on creating the new work with a team of professional musicians, including two apprentice animateurs funded by the MBF.

They are now rehearsing for the final performance with workshop leader James Redwood.

"They love working with all of them," says Gemma Masters. "It's very different from anything else that they do. James and the team have allowed them to become autonomous. The kids wrote the tunes – this has come from them and they love that."

James, who has worked with Glyndebourne Opera and English Touring Opera, grabs the children's attention from the start. He encourages them to sing with soprano

Sophie Grimmer and listen as pianist John Barber, cellist Sam Glazer and saxophonist Andy Brush play the music they have composed.

Daisy Gathorne-Hardy, cellist, and Elspeth Brooke, composer, are the two apprentice animateurs involved in this project and both perform and conduct.

"This is a learning process for both sides", says James Redwood. "The apprentice animateurs and the

professionals are lifting the performance – but at the same time are gaining as much from the experience as the children."

He stresses that this is a long way from a community arts project – simply taking art to different groups of people and performing it with them.

"It's rather a lot more

"We've seen that more animateurs are needed and we want to do something about it through schemes like these. Part of our remit is to train the next generation of professional musicians."

Susan Dolton, Education Administrator

than that. Here we made the decision to really go to town and to stretch every area of the work. We wanted to push the children and we wanted to push ourselves. The piece that we've arrived at is a proper concert oratorio with absolute integrity."

Daisy and Elspeth were selected with four others under the Spitalfields Festival Music Animateur

Apprentice Scheme and, through MBF funding, receive bursaries to help with travel and subsistence. Later in the year, all six apprentices will work elsewhere in Tower Hamlets – at schools for pupils with special educational needs, with older people in day-care centres and at two secondary schools.

This is the fifth year that the Festival has run the Scheme, but the first time the MBF has been involved.

It is a new direction for the MBF and one that the charity feels is important. The MBF believes that there is a shortage of animateurs in the industry and a corresponding shortage of schemes to train them.

"We've seen that more animateurs are needed and we want to do something about it through this particular scheme," says MBF Education Administrator Susan Dolton. "Part of our remit is to train the next generation of professional musicians."

The MBF funding of £30,000 over the next three years has allowed the Festival to increase the animateurs' bursaries from £300 to £1000 in 06/07 and to increase the number of bursary places available to 20 by 2009.

Daisy, 29, who studied music and history of art at Cambridge, is keen to become involved in teaching and creating new music after several years of playing in the Bronte String Quartet. She did some interactive sessions in schools with the quartet and wants to expand on this experience. After the intense discipline of chamber music, she finds the work as an animateur refreshingly spontaneous.



Above: Elspeth Brooke, a composer, at work on the apprentice animateur scheme

From left to right: Andy Brush, Sam Glazer, Elspeth Brooke and Daisy Gathorne-Hardy playing the new oratorio



Right: Workshop leader James Redwood



Left: Sophie Grimmer, soprano



Other apprentice animateurs on the scheme are:

- Eve Harrison** (composer and trumpet)
- Rose Hodgson** (voice)
- Jordan Hunter** (composer and violin)
- and **Helena Ruinard** (violin)

For more information, visit www.spitalfieldsfestival.org.uk

NEW GRANTS FOR STUDENTS

More than 80 young musicians on performance courses received medical treatment in 2006 through new MBF grants to treat physical or psychological conditions that could potentially threaten future careers.

Grants have been given to treat problems ranging from a pianist's tendonitis to a clarinet player's back problems and a cellist's severe tension headaches. The students were attending the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the Birmingham Conservatoire and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Katherine Butler, a London-based Clinical Specialist in hand therapy who specialises in performing arts medicine, says that the scheme has been invaluable.

"It has helped students who wouldn't have been able to pay for treatment and would otherwise have had to wait ages on the NHS waiting lists."

She has treated students who have experienced weekend injuries – someone working behind a bar whose hand was injured by a cut glass – as well as people with strain or technical problems caused by over-practising or holding an instrument incorrectly.

She helps the students learn how to prevent similar problems in the future and treat themselves when necessary.

"I think that it's so important that this continues because it enables people who wouldn't be able to access the most ideal treatment to have care at a crucial stage in their careers.

"If they can't progress as music students, then they're

never going to become musicians. My ideal is to have musicians playing beautiful music in pain-free bodies. A healthy practice habit will have a big impact on the future."

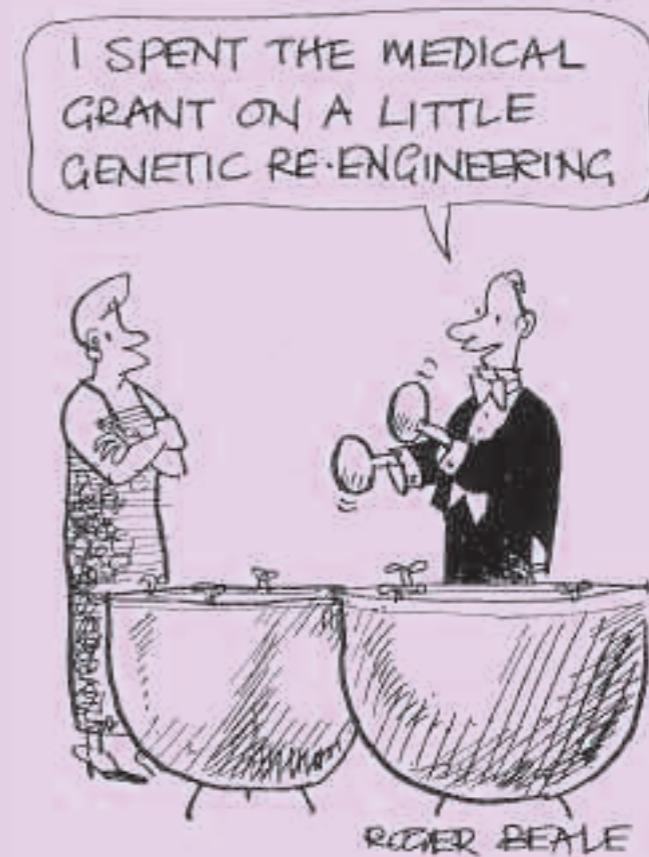
The MBF is currently running the scheme, which offers grants of up to £500, as a pilot project. The grants are available for any performance-related condition suffered

by students on full-time music courses at undergraduate or post-graduate level studying at the colleges involved in the pilot. It is hoped that it will eventually be expanded significantly to music colleges and conservatoires across the country. It is a step in a new direction for the MBF, which up to now has principally supported musicians who were already earning a living through their music.

"We're hoping very much that over the next six months this will take off in other institutions," says Head of Casework Sara Dixon. "Staff have been crucial in getting the news to students.

Often those who suffered an injury early on in their career know just how important it is to see a specialist and get proper treatment promptly."

The results, too, provide interesting data for future work in this area. Proportionately high numbers of first and fourth years have sought grants – but at the moment just why is unclear. "We're hoping to use this as a basis for future work in the institutions, looking at preventative measures to help students generally in future," says Sara Dixon.



"This is more about music being about dancing and singing. Classical music can get too precious... it's the opportunity to stop being precious."

For her, too, the quality of the music produced is crucial.

"It's really important that the quality of what we do is good. It's all about the fact that children can do far more than we expect them to do.

"That's what I found amazing, that James taught them so much without them realising that they're being taught. They're learning things but they're playing... That's what music is all about and they love it. There's a sense of ownership – it's theirs."

Elspeth, 25, studied music at Cambridge and is now starting to forge a name as a composer. For her this is a way of interacting with musicians after the solitude of composition.

"I'm learning from James about communication, how you have to be very clear and confident – you almost have to go out of your comfort zone. He's really amazing at bringing the drama of the story through, so that they feel part of it.

"We've tried to make the workshops a place where it's all right to make mistakes and try things out, a place where they can be themselves. Any suggestion is valid and listened to but the end result is a really good piece of music."

Education Director Philip Flood says the scheme is unique.

"The skills are very advanced. We are looking for creative individuals who can think laterally, a mixture of a teacher and an artist. They must be very good musicians – that is very important and we're asking them to be innovative, creative and spontaneous.

"We're looking for artists who can literally go into a space and unlock an exciting piece of music." ■



Left: Dave O'Higgins

MBF JAZZ SHOWCASE

Encouraged by the huge success of the Peter Whittingham Jazz Awards, the MBF held a showcase event at the Vortex Jazz Club, London, last autumn featuring three of the most outstanding recent recipients



Right: Andrew Stamatakis-Brown, 6pac

6pac was formed by members of the Royal Northern College of Music Big Band in June 2002 with the aim of bringing new and varied forms of jazz to different audiences. 6pac continue to perform regularly all over the country and Big Band members of the sextet have played with Bob Mintzer, Stan Tracy, Dave O'Higgins, Alan Ganley, John Dankworth, John Wilson and Julian Joseph – and independently with Branford Marsalis and Phil Woods. 6pac won the prestigious RNCM Gold Medal in March 2004 which was followed swiftly that year by the Peter Whittingham Jazz Award.



Right: 6pac

Multi award winning jazz saxophonist **Dave O'Higgins** with his Quartet, 2000 Peter Whittingham Jazz Award winner. Dave O'Higgins, saxophonist and composer, has won numerous high profile awards including the "Best Tenor Sax" at the British Jazz Awards in 1995 and 1997, and was also a Best Band nominee at the BBC Jazz Awards in 2001 and 2002.



Right: Gavin Barras, 6pac

Photos by Brian O'Connor



Left: Toby McLaren, Led Bib

Right: Liran Donin, Led Bib



Left: Mark Holub, Led Bib

Led Bib was founded by New Jersey born drummer Mark Holub, who absorbed the sounds of the downtown New York music scene as a developing musician and came to London in 2003 where he picked out some of the finest players to suit his ambitious vision. Led Bib were back at the Vortex after their highly successful Dalston Summer Stew Festival there in the summer, which was funded through the Peter Whittingham Jazz Award. The Festival showcased some of the best emerging talent on the jazz scene.

The Peter Whittingham Jazz Award



Pianist David O'Brien won the MBF's 2006 Peter Whittingham Jazz Award and will use the £4,000 to fund a London-based Plasmatronic Jazz Festival – an ambitious collaborative project fusing live music with screen visuals.

David O'Brien, 24, has an eclectic musical history as a pianist, double bassist and bass guitarist, recently working with the Brian Abrahams Trio and Quartet and the Stefano Kalonaris Group, and on projects including "Spin Allowed" (a fusion of Indian and Western music and dance).

He has also performed professionally with Barak Schmool, Julian Siegel, Nick Ramm and Richard Sparern. He studied at the Junior Royal College of Music and Lady Margaret College, Oxford, before taking an MMus at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he formed his current band Porpoise Corpus.

"Winning this award means a great deal to me and to the rest of the band," he said. "The list of previous winners is an inspiring one and I am very grateful that the MBF has chosen to fund my work, not only because of the quality of all of those musicians being considered, but also because of the comparatively open-ended and ambitious nature of my project – to devise and stage a mini-festival of new music and film for early next autumn."

Due to the very high standard of applicants, MBF Development Awards of £1,500 each were also made to Matt Calvert and Sebastien Pipe for their outstanding performances.

The audition panel was chaired by Christopher Whittingham, Peter Whittingham's son, who was joined by Dave O'Higgins and Steve Rubie. The Peter Whittingham Award was set up by Peter Whittingham's family in his memory in 1989 to promote the composition and performance of cutting edge jazz.

Recent award winners include Soweto Kinch, who won Best Instrumentalist and Best Band at the 2004 BBC Jazz Awards, as well as the Mercury Music Prize Album of the Year and MOBO Awards Best Jazz Act in 2003, and Manchester based jazz sextet 6pac, winners of the Royal Northern College of Music Gold Medal in 2004.

2006 MBF String Awards



Jonathan Bloxham



Giovanni Guzzo



Jeanine Thorpe

Last October, cellists and violinists under the age of 21 were invited to the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, London, to audition for the MBF String Awards. Winners were from the Yehudi Menuhin School, the Royal Academy of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama

Jonathan Bloxham won the Guilhermina Suggia Gift 2006 of £3,000. Born in 1988 in Newcastle, Jonathan first studied cello with John Finnon and then with James Craig. Following various successes such as a prize at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod, he moved to The Yehudi Menuhin School in 2004, where he currently studies with Thomas Carroll.

As a soloist and chamber musician, he has performed throughout the UK and in France, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic, including a performance of Haydn's Sinfonia Concertante under Scott Stroman in Spain. In March, he performed the Beethoven Triple Concerto with the Royal Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra and in April gave a recital in Hiroshima, Japan.

He plays an 1824 Lorenzo Ventapane cello on loan to him.

Giovanni Guzzo won the Manoug Parikian Award of £3,000. Born in Venezuela in 1986, Giovanni Guzzo began learning the violin at the age of six. In 1999, he won 1st prize in the XII National Violin Competition Juan Bautista Plaza, which led to performances in major venues nationwide. He continued his studies with Zakhar Bron at the Escuela Superior de Musica Reina Sofia in Madrid, and in 2002 won a scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music, where he is a student of Maurice Hasson. He has performed as soloist in venues in Venezuela and Europe.

Since arriving in London, he has worked with Sir Colin Davis, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, the Maggini and Takacs Quartets and Colin Carr. He has been awarded numerous prizes such as an MBF Music Education Award (2004), Winifred Solo Violin prize (RAM), Gold medal at the Marlow Music Festival 2006, and was a finalist in the YCAT Competition in May 2005.

He plays on a 1719 Santo Seraphin violin, kindly on loan from the Royal Academy of Music.

Seventeen-year-old **Jeanine Thorpe**, who studies with Gabrielle Painter at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, received the RPS Emily Anderson Prize of £2,500 provided by the Royal Philharmonic Society.

She started playing the violin at the age of six and two years later began studying with Philippa Bunting at Junior Royal Academy of Music. Since then she has studied with David Takeno and Stephanie Gonley at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

In December 2002, she was awarded 1st prize in the Remember Enescu International Violin Competition in Romania. In 2004 Jeanine played Lalo's Symphony Espagnole at St. John's Smith Square with the Junior Guildhall Symphony Orchestra, and won the Gold Medal and overall 1st prize in the Marlow Music Festival Competition.

Other successes include an MBF Geoffrey Shaw Scholarship in 2004 and the ESTA Student of the Year Award. In 2005, Jeanine was first prize winner of Junior Guildhall's Lutine Prize, and had masterclasses with Mstislav Rostropovich.

Because of the very high standard of playing at the auditions, the MBF made further funding available to be used towards study costs. MBF Music Education Awards were made to violinists Virgil Boutellis, Jiafeng Chen and Mari Poll, and cellists Matthijs Broersma, Stjepan Hauser, Thaddeus Andre and Maksim Beitan.

Violinists Lada Bronina and Adelia Myslov and cellists Timothy Lowe, Jamie Bergin, and Mikhail Nemtsov were all recipients of Geoffrey Shaw Scholarships. The Rose Elizabeth Driver Award was made to violinist Magdalena Filipczak, 20, from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

The panel for the cello day was chaired by Ronald Corp, MBF Education Committee Chairman, who was joined by Karine Georgian, Susan Monks and Alasdair Tait. The violin panel was chaired by Levon Chilingirian OBE with Ronald Corp, Lyn Fletcher and Stephanie Gonley.

Making it all happen

The MBF starts the New Year with a number of new Trustees and Committee members. A whistlestop tour starts with Richard Johnson, Head of Media at the Children's Society



Richard Johnson, 36, is not only the MBF's youngest trustee but also the first ever to apply for the job after the MBF advertised for a trustee in the national press. His background is in show business and PR.

After graduating with a degree in Performing Arts and Media from Middlesex University in 1993, he describes his initial career as 'split' into two very separate parts, performance and PR. Both eventually led to an interest in supporting the MBF.

For four years after graduation he worked for the Grand Order of Water Rats, the show-business charity which supports variety artists in need and also raises money for deserving causes. Subsequently, he performed extensively in the West End, including *Phantom of The Opera* and *La Traviata* at the Donmar

Warehouse. But then in early 2000 he decided to devote himself entirely to publicity rather than performance.

"I get more of a buzz out of doing PR work... you can be more creative in PR than performing. Remember, if you're in a West End musical then you're doing the same thing every night."

He worked in fundraising, marketing and media at the British Red Cross, Help the Aged and the Leukaemia Research Fund. For the past two years, he has been Head of Media at the Children's Society where he has overseen a 'refreshed' image. He hopes a similar evolution of image and approach will come about at the MBF as the charity moves forward.

"I see the task as putting more of a modern face on it, ultimately – while not losing the heritage that we have. I'd like to see music cross all generations and ethnic groups. I want to be a hands on Trustee."

OTHER NEW TRUSTEES



John Axon was Executive Director of the Performing Right Society, which collects and distributes licence fees for the public performance, cabling and broadcast of musical works, from 2000-2005. Although now formally retired he maintains a diverse interest in music, lives in rural South Buckinghamshire and is Chairman of a local educational trust.



Martin Campbell-White, 62, has been Joint Chief Executive of Askonas Holt, Europe's biggest artists' agency since 1988. He joined the company in the early 70s and signed up Simon Rattle at the age of 17. He also represents Bernard Haitink, Murray Perahia, Thomas Allen, Felicity Lott, Simon Keenlyside, Nicholas Hytner and Daniel Barenboim, and a host of top conductors.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE



David Juritz, violinist, has been leader of the London Mozart Players for the past 15 years. He has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician in all the major concert halls of the UK as well as performing internationally. He also writes about issues related to music and was one of the judges at the 2004 British Violin Making Competition, an international competition for violin and bow-makers. In 2005 he was appointed Artistic Director of the Burton Bradstock Festival.



Concert pianist **Lucy Parham's** career took off after she won the 1984 BBC TV Young Musician of the Year Piano Class. Since then she has performed extensively throughout the UK and in Europe, South Africa, North America, and Russia. As a soloist she has appeared with the Russian State Symphony Orchestra at the Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, L'Orchestre Rencontres Suisse, Bergen Philharmonic, L'Orchestre National de Lille, and three UK tours with the Polish National Radio SO and the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra.

CASEWORK COMMITTEE

Adrian Bradbury began playing the cello at the age of seven and became a principal player of the National Youth Orchestra. After studying Veterinary Science and Music at Churchill College, Cambridge, he won a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music.

He has made chamber music broadcasts on BBC Radio with London Sinfonietta, Jane's Minstrels, The Composers' Ensemble, Trio Gemelli, Chamber Domaine and the Scottish Ensemble. His chamber music concerts have involved tours of Europe, the USA and the Far East, with appearances at the Wigmore Hall, the South Bank and the Carnegie Hall, together with major festivals (Cheltenham, Huddersfield, Orkney, Turku and Aarhus) and the Prom chamber music series.

Jonathan Ouvry is a retired solicitor, Liveryman, former Clerk and past Upper Bailiff of the Worshipful Company of Weavers. He is much involved in Huguenot matters as a past President of the Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland. His charitable involvement includes trusteeships of two almshouse charities and an educational charity among others and trusteeship of the Idlewild Trust. He is a keen amateur singer.



FINANCE COMMITTEE



Robert Thomas has worked in finance all his professional life. After reading Economics at Cambridge and qualifying as an Actuary, he worked as a bond analyst and partner at stockbrokers, W.Greenwell & Co, for some 25 years. He ended his career as an investment director for almost ten years at Henderson Global Investors, managing fixed income portfolios for UK pension funds, overseas governments & other international organisations. Besides his work on the MBF's Finance Committee, he is Chairman of the Glass Sellers' Charity Fund, trustee of the Charles S. French Charitable Trust, Treasurer of the Epping Forest Centenary Trust and also of the Addenbrookes' Liver Transplant Association. He is Non-Executive Director of Royal Liver Asset Management. He became Master of the Worshipful Company of Actuaries in July 2006.

Festival of Saint Cecilia

Every year the MBF honours the patron saint of music with a high profile service and specially commissioned anthem – in 2006 the anthem was composed by Sir Richard Rodney Bennett



Festival Lunch and Royal Concert



Left: Robert Alderman, Chairman of the Promenaders' Musical Charities, presents Christopher Yates, MBF Chairman, with a cheque for £33,500 collected at the 2006 Proms



Right: HRH The Duke of Gloucester with Christopher Yates and Gerald Finley (Prince Yeletsky)



Left: HRH The Duke of Gloucester with MBF Honorary Treasurer William Parker and Royal Opera House Chief Executive, Tony Hall



event of historical importance. People remember these things very clearly.

"This is definitely an important commission because of its tradition and because of the importance of the MBF within the musical world."

From a publisher's point of view, the occasion is key: often the works commissioned by the MBF and performed at the service become part of core church music repertoire for Saint Cecilia Day services. The MBF commission gives Saint Cecilia a profile – and also gives other composers a stimulus to compose.

"It's a real honour, even for someone of Richard's stature, because it's such a high profile service."

Sir Richard, 70, is famed for his versatility. He plays jazz and classic show tunes in cabaret; he also composes educational music for children. His film scores include *Far from the Madding Crowd* (1967), *Murder on the Orient Express* (1975), *Enchanted April* (1992) and *Four Weddings and a Funeral* (1994). He has written the score for a new film, *When the Devil Knows You're Dead*, starring Ethan Hawke, to be released in 2007.

"And the first cry of a bird's enough

To astonish us to waking

And boughs to bud again."

M R Peacocke
Verses for Saint Cecilia's Day

Prince Charles commissioned him to write a piece in memory of the Queen Mother. "Reflections on a Scottish Folk Song" premiered in 2006 at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

"I love writing choral music and this is a very distinctive commission," he said. "In a way, I like commissions that pose a problem and this was a problem because I had to do something that was relevant... So I got in touch



Photos by Philip Way

Far left: Sir Richard Rodney Bennett, who composed this year's Saint Cecilia Day anthem; top: the service at St Paul's; above: Malcolm Archer, Director of Music at St Paul's Cathedral, conducts the three choirs

with my sister and she wrote a lovely poem. It was quite difficult to do right."

For Malcolm Archer and the three choirs, the result hit a real high. He deals daily with exceptional music and exceptional singing but occasionally is transported by the quality of what is performed to a higher level still. This happened at the service, he said. Other works included "Into thy hands O Lord" by Jonathan Dove, Peter Philip's double choir setting of Psalm 100 "Jubilate Deo omnis terra" and Parry's "Blest pair of sirens".

"It's the only occasion that all three choirs come together. I was very pleased and particularly delighted by the Richard Rodney Bennett piece. The marriage of words and music was absolutely right for the occasion..."

The Festival Luncheon after the service was held at the Brewery, Chiswell Street.

It is a high point of the year for the three London cathedral choirs and for the hundreds of MBF supporters who attend.

It is also a meaningful day for church music, as each year a leading composer is commissioned to compose an anthem to mark the day. The tradition started in 1946 and has gone from strength to strength, producing Vaughan Williams' "The Voice out of the whirlwind", Tavener's "Annunciation" and Rutter's "Come down, O Love divine".

The 2006 Festival Service was held on 22 November at St Paul's Cathedral and the anthem, "Verses for St Cecilia's Day", composed by Sir Richard Rodney Bennett with words by his older sister, M. R. Peacocke. Its world premiere was sung by the combined choirs of St Paul's, Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral led by Director of Music Malcolm Archer.

"This is hugely special," said Kate Johnson, choral promotion manager at music publishers Novello and Chester. "With new music, a premiere, you're making history in a sense, because the commissions are for an occasion or

The 2006 Royal Concert took place on 23 November at the Royal Opera House in the presence of the Duke of Gloucester. The performance was Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades* with Vladimir Galouzine (tenor) and Katarina Kalayman (soprano), conducted by Semyon Bychkov.

The Festival Service this year will be at Westminster Abbey on Wednesday 21 November and Gabriel Jackson will write the anthem. The Royal Concert will take place on Wednesday 28 November in the Royal Festival Hall and will be given by the London Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Christoph Eschenbach. The programme will include Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 3 with soloist Richard Goode and Mahler's Symphony No 4. For more details, please call 020 7299 8357.

MBF comings...and goings



Katy Bielicki joined the MBF as an Education Officer in September 2006. She grew up in Birmingham, studied at Wells Cathedral School then moved to London in 1994 to study 'cello and voice at Trinity College of Music. After graduating in 1998, she went on to work in administration for HMV, then a small independent record label and, most recently, a Christian arts charity in London Bridge.

Katy continues to play 'cello as a freelance for various orchestras and chamber groups, though most of her free time is taken up with her four-year-old daughter. Another baby is due in March...



Adam Buckles has joined the Public Affairs Department, taking over from Vasco Hexel as Departmental Assistant. Adam joined the MBF after working in the Casework Department as a temp. His hobbies include cooking, music and reading. He plays guitar, the harmonica and can beat a tune out of most things. He also co-runs a group for young adults with terminal illness at St Thomas' hospital and has links with Uganda, where he has been helping a school for AIDS and war victims.



In July 2006 **Laurent John** joined the Casework Department as an Assistant. Previously he worked at a Soho-based PR company specialising in film releases and events, as well as in top retail stores in the London area. After finishing his music diploma, Laurent took some time out to tour with his progressive rock band in the UK and Europe, achieving a well-respected name in his field. Laurent says his main reason for joining the MBF is that he is keen to be part of the charity's work in encouraging music and to help those who have given their lives to the industry.



Sarah Kouta, who has joined the Finance Department as a Finance Officer, is originally from France but has spent the past 10 years in London. She worked as a French teacher and as a restaurant manager until going back to university to take an accounting degree. She is now studying for a management accountancy qualification. Sarah started using her accounting skills working for charities and spent the past year and a half as Income Controller of an outdoor fundraising department at the aid agency CARE International. She does voluntary work during her spare time and is training for the London Triathlon. Although not a practical musician, her life has to a great extent been inspired by music and she is pleased to be working for the MBF.

Supporters often call Head Office and it's good to be able to put a face to a name. There have been some arrivals and departures at the MBF. Here's a quick guide to the newcomers



Emma Reynish joined the Casework Department in January as Deputy Director. After studying Psychology at York University, Emma worked for a range of social care charities and joins MBF after taking a belated gap year, which has included travel to South East Asia and New Zealand and working in Edinburgh during the festival. Prior to that she was Director of Community Care Projects at the Rank Foundation and Chief Executive of The Back-Up Trust, a national charity for people paralysed through spinal cord injury. She considers her musical credentials to be entirely by association, with various family members and friends in the profession. She plays the violin and piano badly – but happily – and sings at weddings and funerals, reliving her teenage days in the National Youth Choir.



Will Steadman joined the MBF as an Education Officer in July 2006 shortly after graduating from Middlesex University with a degree in music and arts management. He studied piano from a young age and later drums, which he now teaches and plays in a group. While at university, he worked for a retail chain to support his study costs and after graduation turned down a management role to take up work with the MBF – a wise choice, he thinks!



Jonathan Whiskerd is the new Casework Administrator. Jonathan attended the International School in Vienna and moved to the UK in 2000 to study Politics and Philosophy at Bristol University. Following his degree, Jonathan remained in Bristol, working as a self-employed singer/guitarist and as a project consultant in the commercial sector. He saw a job at the MBF as a chance to combine a passion for music with his experience in company administration. "I find working in the Casework Department immensely rewarding: it's great to be able to offer help to musicians in need".



Michal Taylor (above), retired at the end of last year. She first came to the MBF in 1990 as Head of Casework and had been the MBF's beneficiary Visitor in the South West since 1997.

Naomi Yhap left the MBF at the end of August to begin her new career as a piano tuner and restorer. Naomi worked for the MBF as Department Secretary of the Casework Department for just under 5 years.

Caroline Elias left the MBF at the beginning of September after working in the Education Department for 3½ years. Caroline is now training to be a primary school teacher specialising in early years.

Della Owen left the MBF in October after working as Assistant Head of Casework for just under 5 years. Della is continuing to work for the MBF taking over from Michal Taylor as a visitor to beneficiaries.

Pauline Wiltshire retired in November after 25 years of working for the MBF as Senior Care Assistant at Ivor Newton House, the MBF's retirement home in Bromley.

THE QUEEN'S NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST 2007

Congratulations to all who received recognition of their good work in the world of music and the arts in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

Knights Bachelor

George Albert Shearing, OBE –

Jazz pianist and composer. For services to music.

Paul 'Bono' Hewson

(Honorary Knighthood) – Singer and songwriter with Irish rock band U2. For services to the music industry and humanitarian work.

DBE

Dr Evelyn Elizabeth Ann

Glennie, OBE – Percussionist. For services to music.

CBE

Ms Imogen Cooper –

Pianist. For services to music.

Dr John Milford Rutter –

Composer and conductor. For services to music.

Rod Stewart –

Singer and songwriter. For services to music.

OBE

Susan Elizabeth Digby

(Lady Eatwell) – Founder and Principal, the Voices Foundation.

For services to music education.

Dr Joseph McKee –

Principal, City of Belfast School of Music. For services to music.

Rodney Gerald Yorke Slafford –

Founder and Chair, The Yorke Trust. For services to music.

Guy Anthony Woolfenden –

Composer and conductor. For services to music.

MBE

Shirley Collins –

Folk singer and writer.

For services to music.

Dr William Donald Davison –

Organist. For services to music in Northern Ireland.

Glynis Mary Farrell –

Specialist music teacher, Holwell Primary School, Herts. For services to Education.

Archie Fisher –

Singer and songwriter. For services to traditional Scottish music.

Ruth Alison Harte (Mrs Langrish) –

For services to music

Dr William Donald Hoskins –

Conductor. For services to music in East London.

Kay Hurwitz –

Violin and viola teacher. For services to music.

Kenneth Kelley –

Bandmaster, Burghclere Primary School Brass Band, Berkshire. For services to music education.

John Eugene Lenney (Junior) –

For services to music and to young people in Cardiff.

Sheila Elizabeth Isobel

McLaughlin –

For services to music in Northern Ireland.

Lynn Mittell –

Radio Presenter and comedy music performer. For services to entertainment in Wales.

Emmanuel Rodriguez –

Trombonist. For services to music.

Laura Sarti –

Singing teacher. For services to music.

Derek Reed Varnals –

Technical Adviser, British Phonographic Industry.

For services to the music industry.

Overseas

Herman Theophilus Francis –

For services to children in the promotion of music, Montserrat.



Photo by Sidney Harris

John Denison

1911-2006

John Denison, who died on 31 December after a short illness, was Chairman of the Royal Concert Committee from 1977-87, an MBF Trustee from 1983-92 and a member of the MBF's Advisory Council from 1992 until his death.

He began his musical career as a chorister at St George's Chapel, Windsor, where he sang at the Queen Mother's wedding in 1923. He recalled being kissed by Dame Nellie Melba following Evensong in which he had sung a solo. He took up the French horn and, after studying law for a short period, won an exhibition to the Royal College of Music in 1932. One of his early jobs was at the Eastbourne Festival where he was conducted by Elgar. Between 1933 and 1939, he played the horn in major orchestras including the BBC Symphony and London Philharmonic. While he was a member of the LPO, he became the first Englishman to learn to play the Wagner tuba, travelling to Bayreuth to learn the instrument at the request of Sir Thomas Beecham. After serving in the army during the Second World War, John joined the British Council as Assistant Director of the music department and, in 1948, became Music Director of the Arts Council. In 1965, he was appointed General Manager of the Royal Festival Hall and Director of the South Bank Concert Halls from 1971 to 76. He was made a CBE in 1960. John was a regular at MBF events and rarely missed an AGM, Council meeting or, particularly, the Festival of Saint Cecilia and Royal Concert.



Philip Cranmer

1918-2006

Philip Cranmer, who was an MBF Trustee from 1974-87 and Chairman from 1979, died on 1 July last year. After he resigned as Chairman in 1987, he remained on the Education Committee until 1996 but, as the photograph on the left shows, his association with the MBF went back much further.

His long and varied career included performing: he was first a chorister at All Saints, Margaret Street (1925-31), organ scholar at Christ Church, Oxford (1935-38) and a BBC staff accompanist (1948-50). He continued performing throughout his life and performed the entire Forty-eight Preludes and Fugues to his friends on his 80th birthday. He was also a composer and those who attended his memorial service at All Saints, Margaret Street, on 19 October were treated to his beautiful and sensitive setting of St Ignatius of Loyola's prayer "Teach us, Good Lord" together with other choral and organ works. He was a teacher, lecturer and Professor of Music at Queen's University Belfast (1954-70) and at Manchester University (1970-74), during which time he was President of the Incorporated Society of Musicians (1970-71) and was also Secretary to the Associated Board (1974-1983).

Above: Philip Cranmer (right) with his brother, Rugby International and Warwickshire cricketer, Peter (left) and father Arthur Cranmer (centre) at an Actors vs Musicians cricket match (in aid of the MBF) in 1935

MAS concert goes astronomical

An extraordinary £12,000 was raised last October at the Musicians Answering Service 30th Anniversary Celebration Concert at the Royal Opera House's Floral Hall. Compered by Ronald Corp, MBF Trustee and Chair of the Education Committee, the concert also featured many other musicians with links to the MBF



The orchestra was led by MBF Education Committee member, David Juritz, and MBF Council Chairman Sir David Willcocks conducted a performance of "The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" from Handel's "Solomon".

Barry Wordsworth also conducted and the finale, conducted by Antonio Pappano, Music Director of the Royal Opera House, was a performance of the theme from "Star Wars" complete with 13 extra horns, 11 extra flutes, 4 keyboard players and an extravagant brass section including a sousaphone!

The MAS has, with the help of Nigel Bates, Principal Percussionist of the Royal Opera House Orchestra, produced a DVD of the concert which included a flute orchestra with a contra bass flute. The DVD can be ordered by visiting the website www.maslink.co.uk and clicking on MAS Anniversary Concert. Alternatively, send a cheque payable to the Musicians Benevolent Fund for £16 to the Musicians Answering Service, Masters Yard, 180a South Street, Dorking, Surrey RH4 2ES (tel: 01306 500000).



Top: Dermot Crehan

Above and left: Members of the Musicians Answering Service

events roundup

As always we are grateful to those who have held events and donated money to the MBF. Emma Perona-Wright has rounded up news of events held throughout the country since the last edition of *the key*

Many thanks to the choir and congregation of **Leyland Methodist Church**, Turpin Green Lane, Leyland, for the generous donation of £337.50 raised on behalf of the MBF at their annual Harvest Festival.

Many thanks to Tony Edisbury and the **United Reformed Church of St Andrew & St George, Bolton**, for the wonderful donation of £500. This money was raised from lunchtime concerts held at the church.

Thank you very much to members of the **Athenaeum Club** who have sent us £300 following a concert given by **Julian Jacobson**. Mr Jacobson very kindly reduced his fee to enable a donation to be made to the MBF and we are grateful to him and to all those that contributed.

We recently received a donation of £536.41 sent on behalf of **Altrincham Grammar School for Boys**. This kind gift was raised at an Autumn Soirée concert given by a former student, violinist Jonathan Martindale, and his colleagues in the Eblana String Trio – Lucy Nolan (viola) and Peggy Nolan (cello), accompanied by Julia Mayall. Many thanks to all of the musicians who took part and to all who contributed.

We are grateful to the choir and congregation of **St Peter's, Budleigh Salterton**, who had a collection for the MBF at their Festival service and were able to send us a magnificent £250. This service was the finale to the very successful nine-day Budleigh Salterton Festival of Music and Drama, held in July.

Our thanks to the members of **Sidmouth Concert Society** who raised £68.30 at their AGM and once again donated it to the MBF.

During October **Allan Barns-Graham** hosted a Musical Evening at Carbeth Guthrie; his home in Glasgow. The music included performances by Roger Owens, a concert pianist from Winchester, and his wife Johanna, a clarinettist. We are grateful to Mr Barns-Graham for hosting this evening in aid of the MBF and to all those who contributed to the fantastic donation of £710. This amount will also be increased considerably by the large number of Gift Aid declarations kindly completed by guests.

MBF Carol Concert 2006

The Vasari Singers were once again a huge success at the MBF's annual Carol Concert in December, held at a packed St Paul's Church, Covent Garden (left). Radio 3 presenter Donald Macleod was the host.

The programme included Judith Weir's *Illuminare Jerusalem*, Kenneth Leighton's arrangement of the Coventry Carol and Mel Tormé's

The Christmas Song and the music was interspersed with seasonal readings by Donald Macleod.

The service raised more than £600 for the MBF. Our thanks go to the Vasari Singers, their conductor Jeremy Backhouse, organist Andrew Earis, and Donald Macleod for their hard work in helping to make the evening both memorable and enjoyable.

FRIENDS CONCESSIONS

Friends of the MBF are entitled to a wide variety of new concessions for the 2006/07 season. Offers include concerts, magazine subscriptions and musical giftware. All event tickets are subject to availability and Friends should quote their membership number on ordering and produce their membership card on collection. For any promotional codes needed, please call Emma Perona-Wright, Supporter Relations Assistant, on 020 7636 4481 or email eperona-wright@mbf.org.uk. The MBF is very grateful to all of the organisations taking part in these concessions. Please do take advantage of the offers where possible!

Nationwide

spnm – promoting new music
Annual membership to spnm at the discounted prices of Friend £25 (full price £30); Joint Ordinary £25 (full price £30); Ordinary £20 (full price £25). Please call 020 7407 1640 and quote 'MBF Special Offer' along with your Friends membership number for details.

The Sixteen

Harry Christophers and The Sixteen present The Choral Pilgrimage 2007, Allegri *Miserere*, celebrating music from the Sistine Chapel. 10% off tickets for the following concerts: 15 March – Cambridge, St John's College Chapel, 16 March – Greenwich, Royal Naval Chapel, 17 March – Tewkesbury Abbey, 13 April – Winchester Cathedral, 14 April – Wells Cathedral, 15 April – Exeter Cathedral, 19 April – Southwell Minster, 20 April – Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, 21 April – Blackburn Cathedral, 3 May – Oxford, University Church, 4 May – Guildford Cathedral, 5 May – Edinburgh, Greyfriars Kirk, 9 May – St Albans Cathedral, 10 May – Chichester Cathedral, 12 May – Salisbury Cathedral, 1 June – Durham Cathedral. For tickets call 01865 305305 and quote 'MBF Offer'. For more information and programme details please visit www.thesixteen.com or call 01865 793999.

Scotland

The National Youth Orchestras of Scotland

Student rate of £2 & 50% discount on full price tickets to 2007 Spring Concerts: 4 April, Usher Hall, Edinburgh and 5 April, Perth Concert Hall. For further information visit www.nyos.co.uk or call NYOS on 0141 332 8311. Usher Hall, Edinburgh Box Office 0131 228 1155, Perth Concert Hall Box Office 0845 612 6322. Please quote 'MBF Spring' and your Friends membership number at both venues.

Royal Scottish National Orchestra

20% discount on tickets purchased for 2007 performances at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and the Usher Hall in Edinburgh. Please quote 'MBF discount' and your Friends membership number when purchasing tickets. Tel booking: 0141 353 8000 (Glasgow Royal Concert Hall box office) and 0131 228 1155 (Usher Hall box office).

Scottish Chamber Orchestra

20% off concert tickets in Glasgow at City Halls, in Edinburgh at the Usher Hall & Queen's Hall, and in Aberdeen at the Music Hall. For tickets in Glasgow call the GRCH Box Office on 0141 353 8000, for tickets in Edinburgh call the Queen's Hall Box Office on 0131 668 2019, and for tickets in Aberdeen call the Music Hall Box Office on 01224 641 122. For all of the above quote 'MBF Discount' and your Friends membership number when booking. This offer applies to all concerts at these venues in Season 06/07.

Manchester and the North-West

Hallé

20% off tickets in areas A, B, C, D for the Hallé Thursday Series concerts (subject to availability). Call 0161 237 7008 for a brochure and 0161 907 9000 to book tickets. Quote 'Hallé MBF Offer' and your Friends membership number.

Royal Northern College of Music

10% off any RNCM promotion. For a free brochure and to book tickets call 0161 907 5555.

Manchester Camerata

£1 off concert tickets at the Bridgewater Hall and the Royal Northern College of Music during the 2007 Manchester Series. For a free brochure call 0161 226 8696 and for tickets phone (Bridgewater Hall) 0161 907 9000, or (RNCM) 0161 907 5555 quoting 'Manchester Camerata MBF Friends Offer'.

Clonter Opera

10% off top priced tickets on all forthcoming performances. For tickets call the Box Office on 01260 224 514 or email boxoffice@clonteropera.com (www.clonteropera.com).

Midlands

Milton Keynes City Orchestra

20% off the top three ticket prices for MKCO concerts held at the Milton Keynes Theatre. For tickets, call the Box Office on 01908 558 311.

City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

10% off CBSO concert promotions at Symphony Hall, Birmingham (usual ticket prices range from £8-£38). Call 0121 616 6500 to request a CBSO brochure. For tickets call 0121 780 3333 quoting 'CBGT offer' and your Friends membership number.

London

BBC Symphony Orchestra

20% discount on tickets for all concerts during the 2006-07 Barbican season, excluding 17 March & 13 April 2007. Please quote 'Musicians Benevolent Fund offer' along with your MBF Friends membership number when booking tickets. Details of the concerts and how to book tickets are available via the website www.bbc.co.uk/symphonyorchestra.

London Community Gospel Choir

Gospel Workshop Choir – learn to sing Gospel, whatever your level! 10% discount on all course fees to Friends of the MBF. For more information contact Vernetta at British Gospel Arts, tel: 0208 509 7222, or email info@britishgospelarts.com. Also visit www.britishgospelarts.com for dates and further details.

Don't miss ... Ticket discounts ... Cut price magazine subs ... Don't miss



FRIENDS CONCESSIONS (continued)

BBC Concert Orchestra

20% off the full price of concerts held at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. For tickets call the South Bank Centre Box Office on 0870 165 6677 quoting 'MBF' and your Friends membership number. For more information go to www.rfh.org.uk.

English Chamber Orchestra

20% discount for the following concert at Cadogan Hall: Wed, 28 March 2007, Ralf Gothoni, conductor/piano, Arto Noras, cello, Tallis Chamber Choir, Bach *Easter Oratorio*, Sofia Gubaidulina *Seven Last Words*. Contact Cadogan Hall Box Office for further details and to book tickets on 020 7730 4500, quoting your MBF membership number. www.cadoganhall.com

Royal Albert Hall

The Royal Albert Hall is pleased to offer MBF Friends a discounted rate for tours run by the Hall. The discounted rates are £6.50 for adults and £5.50 for concessions. Tickets can be purchased through the box office by calling 020 7589 8212, in person at Door 12 or via the website www.royalalberthall.com when quoting the promotional code obtainable from the MBF. Please also quote your MBF membership number or produce your membership card. Please note there is a 25p charge per ticket for bookings made online or by telephone.

London Symphony Orchestra

10% off top-price tickets on all LSO evening concerts at the Barbican Centre in their 2006/07 season. Please quote 'Friends of the MBF' along with your MBF membership number when purchasing tickets. To book call the Barbican box office on 020 7638 8891 (9am-8pm daily, bkg fee). For concert details visit www.lso.org.uk.

South Bank Centre

10% discount on tickets for a selection of 50 concerts in the 2006/07 season. This discount applies to concerts in the International Chamber Music Season, The Song, Organ and Piano Series, as well as the Early Music Weekend and Chamber Orchestra of Europe performances. Performers include the Takacs Quartet, Nikolai Demidenko, Thomas Trotter, The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, The Arditti Quartet and many many more. Call 08703 800 400 for further details about the concerts included in this offer and to book tickets. www.rfh.org.uk.

London Philharmonic Orchestra

20% off all tickets for London Philharmonic Orchestra concerts in London including: Closer to the Music series at the Queen Elizabeth Hall (excluding FUNharmonics) and Chamber Contrasts series at Wigmore Hall. Please quote 'MBF Offer' and your MBF Friends membership number. All performances are on sale through the LPO Box Office. Selected concerts are also available through the venues' own box offices. For further details or to book tickets call: LPO Box Office: 020 7840 4242 (Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm. No booking fee) or QEH Box Office: 08700 60 60 10 (Daily, 9.30am-8pm. £2 transaction fee). All offers subject to availability. Cannot be combined with any other discounts or used against tickets already purchased. www.lpo.org.uk

South and South East

The Havant Orchestras

A 20% discount on £10.50; £13.50 and £16.00 tickets for concerts at Ferneham Hall, Osborn Road, Fareham, 10 February, 31 March, 19 May and 07 July 07. Full details from 023 9248 3228 or website www.hants.org.uk/havantorchestras. Tickets from Ferneham Hall Box Office 01329 231942 quoting MBF/HO Offer and your Friends membership number.

The Serlo Consort

www.serloconsort.co.uk
£2 off top price tickets for *At the foot of the cross*, a concert of beautiful music for Lent through to Easter, to include Allegri *Miserere*, and Vaughan Williams *Serenade to Music*. Saturday 17 March 2007, 7.30 pm, St John the Evangelist Church, Upper Norwood, SE19. For further details and to book tickets, call Kit Perona-Wright on 07740 477114, or email kperonawright@serloconsort.co.uk, quoting 'MBF offer' and your membership number.

Oxford Philomusica

www.oxfordphil.com
10% off all our concerts in our 2006/07 season (offer excludes the Viennese Ball). To obtain a brochure and/or to book tickets please call 0870 6060804 and quote 'MBF Friends' along with your Friends membership number. Please note that this offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

Face the Music, Musical Giftware

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South-West

St George's Bristol – Musicians' Choice Lunchtime Concert Series

£2 discount on tickets for all lunchtime concerts during the Spring 2007 season, enabling you to book a ticket for £4. Please quote 'Musicians Benevolent Fund offer' along with your MBF Friends membership number when booking tickets. The series is supported by the MBF. Details of the concerts and how to book tickets are available via the website www.stgeorgesbristol.co.uk or the Box Office on 0845 4024001.

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